

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGES - UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS DELEGATION

1. CONCLUDING INTENSIVE ELEVEN-DAY PROGRAM OF VISITS, DISCUSSIONS, AND TRAVEL THROUGHOUT ROMANIA (BUCHAREST, CLUJ, ALBA-IULIA, SIBIU, AND IASI), DELEGATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFFS MET NOVEMBER 15 FOR TWO-HOUR SESSION WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PARTY PERMANENT PRESIDUM MEMBER PAUL NICULESCU-MIZIL. DISCUSSION, RANGING WELL BEYOND THE USUAL EXCHANGE OF CEREMONIAL PLEASANTRIES, WAS HIGHLY SUBSTANTIVE IN CHARACTER, WITH AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS PRESENTING OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS FROM TOUR, DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM THESE DIRECTLY RELATED TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF U.S.-ROMANIAN BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. MIZIL DESCRIBED RELATIONSHIP OF ROMANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION TO NATIONAL MODERNIZATION AND PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS AND, ONCE AGAIN, VOICED CONTINUING ROMANIAN THEME OF EXPANDING CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES WITH U.S.

2. MINISTRY'S SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM IN GENERAL, AND WITH CONCLUDING MIZIL CALL IN PARTICULAR, FULLY APPARENT WHEN MINED OFFICIALS PROPOSED UNUSUAL ONE-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15 PRECEDING MINISTRY-HOSTED FAREWELL RECEPTION. THIS WENT OFF WITHOUT HITCH.

3. IN COURSE OF TOUR DELEGATION VISITED SOME 15 ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGE NUMBER OF RECTORS, DEANS, AND FACULTY MEMBERS. DESPITE

SERIOUSLY FATIGUING SCHEDULE IN PROVINCIAL CITIES, ALL DELEGATION MEMBERS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY AND HAVE REMAINED IN GOOD SPIRITS THROUGHOUT. IASI VISIT MARRED IN SMALL DEGREE BY OBVIOUS ATTEMPT BY UNIVERSITY RECTOR THERE EXPLOIT AMERICAN VISIT TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION VIS A VIS OTHER LOCAL ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. NEVERTHELESS VISIT TO IASI, AS WELL AS TO ALL OTHER POINTS, EXCEPTIONALLY EFFECTIVE IN STRENGTHENING EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH HIGHEST UNIVERSITY LEVELS HERE.

4. CONSTANT REPETITION OF RECIPROCITY THEME BY U.S. DELEGATION MEMBERS HAS, WE FEEL, GENERATED MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION ON ROMANIAN SIDE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR OWN DELEGATION TO U.S. VISIT NOW BEING DISCUSSED FOR LATE APRIL ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING GROUP'S PROBABLE MAKE-UP.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE FULL ORAL REPORT FROM PROFESSOR KEITH HITCHINS REGARDING DELEGATION VISIT FOLLOWING LETTER'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 16. MORE DETAILED EMBASSY COMMENTARY AND ASSESSMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM. MEANWHILE, WISH TO COMMEND DEPARTMENT FOR RECRUITING EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE AND EFFECTIVE GROUP OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATORS FOR PROGRAM IN QUESTION. PARTICULARLY ADEPT IN OUR VIEW IS SENIOR U.S. DELEGATION MEMBER CHARLES ODEGAARD, WHOSE TACT, PERCEPTION, AND ELOQUENCE VISIBLY IMPRESSED ROMANIAN CONTACTS AND PROVED TO BE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSETS THROUGHOUT VISIT. ODEGAARD ALSO HELPFUL IN RENEWING OFFICIAL IVP INVITATION TO NICULESCU-MIZIL DURING NOVEMBER 15 MEETING.
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